

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 07100 160502Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 STR-04 ITC-01 CU-04 USIA-15 /053 W
-----160505Z 013851 /17

R 160430Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7764

UNCLAS TOKY 7100

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, JA, EFTRD, OTRA
SUBJECT: ELECTRIC MACHINERY WORKERS PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ON COLOR TV

REF: A) TOKYO 5939, B) TOKYO 6748

1. IN MEETING WITH LABATT MAY 13, ELECTRICAL MACHINERY WORKERS FEDERATION (DENKI ROREN) PRESIDENT TOSHIFUMI TATEYAMA SAID THAT, AS RESULT OF FRANK AND FRIENDLY TALKS WITH U.S. LABOR LEADERS AND USG OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON EARLIER THIS MONTH (REF A), HE HAD BETTER PERCEPTION OF SERIOUSNESS U.S. CONCERN REGARDING JAPANESE COLOR TV EXPORTS AND COULD NOW CONVINCE HIS MEMBERSHIP OF NEED FOR JAPAN TO ACCEPT SOME RESTRICTIONS.

2. TATEYAMA PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY THREE POINTS MADE REPEATEDLY TO HIM DURING VISIT: 1) US TRADE UNIONISTS UNANIMOUS IN ARGUING THAT SUDDEN UPSURGE IN TV IMPORTS FROM JAPAN RESPONSIBLE FOR HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT IN US ELECTRONIC INDUSTRY (TATEYAMA NOTED THAT DURING HIS SEPT. 1976 VISIT ONLY US ELECTRICAL WORKERS MADE THIS 2) USG OFFICIALS STRESSED THEIR DESIRE TO BE "FAIR" TO JAPAN IN NEGOTIATING QUOTAS AND 3) GENERAL FEELING EVEN AMONG SO-CALLED US EXPERTS ON JAPAN, THAT GOJ AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY, PARTICULARLY TRADING COMPANIES, HAVE ERECTED "INVISIBLE" BARRIER TO ENTRY OF US EXPORTS
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INTO JAPANESE MARKET.

3. TATEYAMA SAID US CASE WEAKENED BY INSISTENCE THAT LAYOFFS AT TV PLANTS CAUSED EXCLUSIVELY BY IMPORTS, BY INABILITY TO PRODUCE DETAILED UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS AND BY LACK OF ANY FACTS AND FIGURES REGARDING INVISIBLE TRADE BARRIERS ERECTED BY JAPANESE. ON LAST

POINT, TATEYAMA ADDED THAT, IF SPECIFIC PROBLEM AREAS HIGHLIGHTED, JAPANESE PRIVATE SECTOR UNIONS, REVOGNIZ-
ING CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF TRADE TO US-JAPAN BILATERAL
RELATIONSHIP AND ALSO HOPING TO BRING DOWN LIVING COSTS
OF THEIR MEMBERS, WOULD ASSIST IN EFFORTS TO OPEN UP
JAPANESE MARKET MORE TO US PRODUCTS.

4. TATEYAMA SAID HIS ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY
WITH US LABOR LEADERS, AS WELL AS US OFFICIALS FREINDLI-
NESS TOWARDS AND FAMILIARTY WITH JAPANESE LABOR MOVEMENT,
WERE FRUITS OF USG'S LABOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM. HE NOTED
THAT TERM "LABOR DIPLOMACY" NOW IN VOGUE IN JAPAN AS
GOJ OFFICIALS, STARTING WITH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA,
HAD FINALLY COME TO REALIZE THAT JAPANESE LABOR
LEADERS, BECAUSE OF GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH US
COUNTERPARTS, COULD HELP FIND SOLUTIONS TO DIFFICULT
TRADE PROBLEMS. TATEYAMA EXPECTED THAT PRIMIN AND
DEPUTY CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY DOSHO, LABOR MINISTRY
ALUMNUS, WOULD NOW ATTEMPT TO INCREASE GOJ FINANCING
OF LABOR EXCHANGES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELEVISION EQUIPMENT, IMPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO07100
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770172-1142
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770551/aaaabsez.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2f42be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TOKYO 5939, 77 TOKYO 6748
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2499346
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTRIC MACHINERY WORKERS PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ON COLOR TV
TAGS: ELAB, ETRD, OTRA, ETEL, JA, US, (TATEYAMA, TOSHIFUMI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2f42be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009